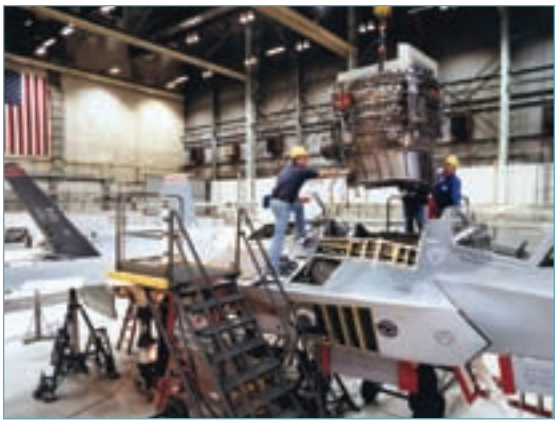
An Uplifting Team — Answering the Customer's Call

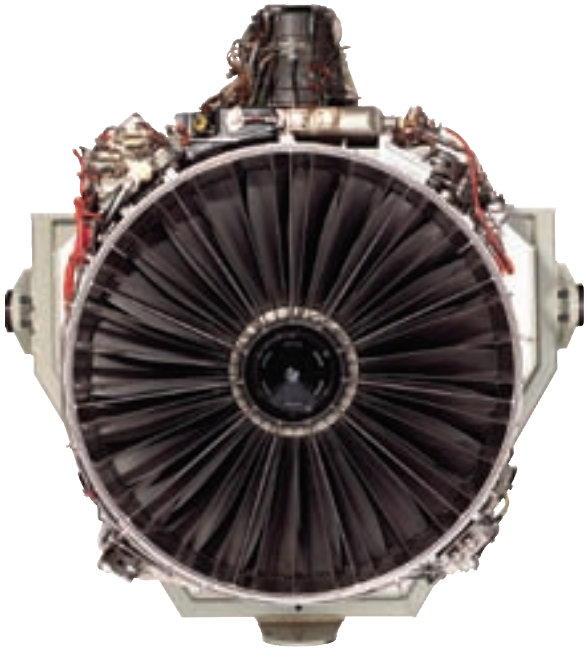
by Maj. Gilberto Rosario, U.S. Air Force, Commander, DCMA Aircraft Propulsion Operations – Rolls Royce



All eyes of the aerospace community are on the Short Take-Off, Vertical Landing (STOVL) variant of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). The F-35 JSF is part of the next generation of war-fighting aircraft, and the DCMA Aircraft Propulsion Operations team at Rolls-Royce Corporation (RRC) in Indianapolis is providing the program support to make it available. The STOVL design includes the revolutionary LiftFan® module, which is under development at the RRC aircraft engine plant in Indianapolis. The Department of Defense (DoD) and Aerospace industry are focused on the F-35 LiftFan® module, presently in the system development and demonstration phase of the acquisition cycle.

It takes a close-knit program support team (PST) of proactive employees to ensure that the LiftFan® module is delivered on time, at the right cost and at the highest level of quality. The DCMA RRC LiftFan® PST is comprised of four full-time members in the functional areas of engineering, quality assurance and program integration. Additional support is provided in the areas of earned-value management, production and pricing.

It takes a close-knit program support team of proactive employees to ensure that the LiftFan® module is delivered on time, at the right cost and at the highest level of quality.



(Above and Right) The Rolls-Royce LiftSystem® for the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter consists of the Rolls-Royce LiftFan®, the 3 Bearing Swivel Module (3BSM) and the roll posts. (Photographs courtesy of Rolls-Royce plc, copyright © Rolls-Royce plc 2005)

The DCMA RRC LiftFan® team is a proud member of the JSF team and has made contributions that were pivotal to the propulsion enterprise's success.

In response to customer requests, the team provides daily and weekly technical reports as well as monthly earned-value analysis reports. The reports, distributed to the entire F-35 program development team, include status overviews, testing and design insights, risk assessment of requirements, examination of potential issues, and predictive analysis. As members of the contractor's various integrated product teams (IPTs), the LiftFan® PST is continuously recognized by the customer for its predictive accuracy and positive influence on customer-desired outcomes. The LiftFan® PST works closely with RRC's IPTs and leverages integral knowledge and relationships to assess RRC's progress and ability to achieve program milestones. The LiftFan® PST members also have a well-developed working relationship with the JSF Program Office, program leads and managers.

The LiftFan® PST provided technical and pricing support to the recently negotiated extension to the system development and demonstration contract. Despite being faced with an abbreviated time frame, the team completed the analysis on schedule. Concurrently, team members performed cost and technical analysis in support of other program proposals, while still performing daily program functions. This is a typical example of the LiftFan® PST's dedication to and support of the customer.

On Sept. 19, 2005, the JSF program achieved a significant milestone with the delivery of the first Variable Area Vane Box Nozzle at a formal ceremony at the Rolls Royce plant in Indianapolis. A critical component in the first JSF STOVL aircraft, the vane box directs airflow into the LiftFan®. This significant achievement is the result of hard work and exemplary teamwork within the JSF propulsion enterprise. The DCMA RRC LiftFan® team is a proud member of the JSF team and has made contributions that were pivotal to the success of the propulsion enterprise.

(Above) Members of the DCMA Rolls-Royce Corporation LiftFan® Program Support Team located at DCMA Aircraft Propulsion Operations – Rolls Royce in Indianapolis, from left: Mr. Robert G. Unger, Mr. Kim L. Peterson, Ms. Jessica E. Ross, Mr. David M. Kahl and Mr. Ralph A. Sutor. (Photo by Ms. Holly Wolfe, Rolls-Royce Corporation)